

Distribution of textiles.

17. MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the present system of textile distribution is creating much confusion?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

Coir Control Order.

2. *MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the object of the Coir Control Order?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The Coir Control Order was issued for the purpose of ensuring sufficient quantities of coir yarn for the manufacture of coir goods contracted to be supplied by Government to the Supply Department of the Government of India for purposes connected with the war.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: May I know in view of the fact that steps have been taken towards that end will the Government be pleased to remove restrictions on exports and issue permits therefor?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The matter will be considered.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: Sir, will the Government be pleased to state, (a) in view of the resignation tendered by the Chief Engineer and accepted by Government, what arrangements Government propose to make to satisfactorily carry out the various important works now started by Government and which are in various stages, such as the Perunchani Dam Hydro Electric works, National highways and Post-War Reconstruction schemes and (b) whether the Government have got suitable and competent and fully qualified men with ripe experience in their service to carry out these works?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Sir, the Government have not come to any decision with regard to the appointment of a successor. But the question will be taken up with reference to these commitments shortly.

PRESIDENT: The answer to that question is simple. The Chief Engineer has resigned, but he has been requested to stay on until the arrangements for his successor have been made. As a matter of fact arrangements must be made for many successors, for this reason. Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan was a specially qualified officer both in the matter of Workshop and Irrigation works. In the Electrical side the services of Mr. Bruford who was drawing Rs. 1,800, were terminated. The Chief Engineer was an expert in that line, and he was doing the work without any additional remuneration. Also the services of Mr. M. Lean had been terminated. He was getting a salary of Rs. 1,500 and was an expert in construction works. The Chief Engineer was attending to this work as well by himself. Therefore, at the present moment an engineer will have to be appointed for the Hydro-Electric Works, another engineer for

the Perunchani Scheme, another for the National Highway scheme and yet another for the ordinary engineering works. So it is very likely that 3 to 4 officers will have to be appointed and the Government are considering the filling up of these places as early as possible.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of a motion for adjourning the business of the House which reads:—

“I beg to move that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation brought about by the recent Government order for commandeering of valloms being indiscriminately carried out causing much inconvenience to the wholesale merchants to supply ration articles in time and the consequent hardships and sufferings the public are put to.”

I trust that the honourable member will not press this matter for the reason that I shall endeavour to show presently. The Government of India have told us already that there is a tremendous amount of delay in unloading the grain shipments that have arrived in Cochin and in clearing them away from the godowns there. This Government have tried to commandeer godowns with the kind assistance and co-operation of the Cochin Government. This Government have rented many godowns in Cochin and some of them are not of the best order. The honourable members would have learnt that one godown collapsed about 5 or 9 days ago causing some casualties. It is not my idea to criticise the godowns that are available to us. But I am only stating the position. In any case we have not enough godowns and the result is that the Government of India have told us that the ships will sail away with the full load unless they are cleared. The result is that within the next 2 or 3 weeks when steamers will be coming in quick succession we have to move all the food grains down to Travancore. Therefore whatever may be the inconvenience to anybody, wholesale merchants or the public, we shall not lose any opportunity for commandeering valloms and, as I said, unless we clear the grains through the valloms speedily, things will be different. Therefore without commandeering nothing is possible. The risk will be that we shall be losing all the grain ships which will sail away as such a course has been definitely ordered by the Government of India. It is expected that those ships will stay on from 3 to 4 days at Cochin and if we are able to effect transport within that period, there is no difficulty for us to secure the grains sent to us. That is the present position.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: പ്രസിഡൻ്റ് അവർക്കു നൽകിയ വിശദീകരണത്തെ ചരിഗണിച്ച് ഞാൻ ഈ മോഷൻ പ്രസ് ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.